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TODAY and TOMORROW

The Road To Doom

CASUALTIES amounting to 32,900 have been inflicted upon the Americans up to March 13 by the Nipponese forces on Iwoojima. United States Marine Officers have stated that Iwoojima has been the bloodiest, toughest and costliest battle in the 168-year history of the United States Marine Corps. Nor are the Americans in the Philippines faring very much better. Furious fighting on the Luzon Island continues unabated, with the Yankees suffering further losses in men and materials in their desperate attacks against Nippon positions. In other parts of the Philippines, too, such as Mindanao Island, the heroic Nippon garrisons continue to exact a ruinous toll from their enemy.

Especially the manpower problem is a terrible headache to Uncle Sam. We have it on the authority of most reliable reports from the United States that the American Government is finding it extremely difficult to fill the need of the armed services for more replacements, and at the same time, to answer the mounting cry of war industries for additional workers. And the manpower shortage in the Yankee land is not improved by the frequent recurrence there of labour strikes.

If such is the plight of the United States now, what will it be in the weeks to come if and when the Americans venture to tackle the inner defences of Nippon? The huge price which the Yankees have paid and are still paying in men and material for their misadventure on Iwoojima bodes no good for the would-be invaders of Nippon.

On the strength of the fierce mauling which the Americans have so far had and yet continue to have, both in the Philippines and Iwoojima, it is not too much to say that the Americans and the British are facing a long and losing war in Asia. The Anglo-Americans themselves seem to realise this; and there is no doubt that, one of these days, they will find themselves caught in the death-trap on their much-boosted road to Tokyo.

Soviets Prohibit Use Of Rumanian Airbases

Lisbon, March 19 (Domei)—The Istanbul correspondent of the "New York Times" today reported that the Soviet military authorities have forbidden the use of Rumanian airfields to British or American aircraft.

Nippon Army Prepared To Meet All Eventualities

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U.S. Landing Attempt On S. China To Be Smashed If & When Launched

South China Front, Mar. 19 (Domei)—With all strategic points in China in their hands Nippon expeditionary forces in China are now fully prepared to smash all American landing attempts on the China coast if and when launched.

American planes recently have not only been attempting to interfere with Nippon shipping in the South China Sea but also conducting persistent reconnaissance activities all along the China coast, while simultaneously intensifying bombing along the South China coast, apparently with the object of effecting a surprise landing some time in the future.

Meanwhile, reports reveal that the United States, urging Chungking to expedite its military operation in South China, has declared that unless the Chungking forces recapture Shaokuan, thereby cutting off the Canton-Hankow railway, it would be most difficult for the American forces to effect a landing on the China coast.

However, the Nippon forces, occupying as they do a strategic line extending from Hankow to French Indo-China and also a line running from Hengyang to Canton, now possess unprecedented mobility and hence are fully prepared to strike at enemy invaders whether they be American forces landing on the China coast or Chungking troops launching a general offensive from the interior.

Only a small portion of the

(Continued on next page)

Bombay Transport Strike Well Planned To Curb Govt's War Effort

Complete paralyzation of all traffic in the city of Bombay as a result of a strike by the bus and tram drivers and conductors is the highlight of the news received from India yesterday. Revealing this, a despatch from Bombay says that Bombay's bus and tram traffic came to a standstill on Monday afternoon following a lightning strike by all drivers and conductors in the city.

Although no further details about the incident are at present available, it is understood that the strike was part of a well-organised plan of the Indian nationalists to sabotage the war efforts of the British authorities in the Province. The strike was so swift and so sudden that the authorities were taken completely by surprise and could do nothing to avert it.

BRITISH PANIC & ANXIETY OVER FATE OF TOTTERING INDIAN EMPIRE GROWING

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English Journals Urge Compromise With Leading Nationalist Elements

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Revealing the anxiety of the British to come to some sort of a compromise with the nationalist elements in India, the London Times, in an editorial on the subject of Indo-British relations, emphasises that Britain must bear responsibility in securing effective execution of her declared policy towards India. The present "take-it or leave-it" attitude in regard to the Cripps' proposals cannot continue without peril to Indo-British co-operation.

The Times suggests that Britain should now begin gradual remodelling of the structure of staffing and the procedure of the governmental machine in preparation for complete transfer of power to Indian hands. Britain should also approach the communal problem from a new angle. This problem, adds The Times, is the whole crux of the present deadlock.

The British anxiety to appease the nationalist forces in India is also revealed in an editorial in the Birmingham Post which says that a considerable amount of interest is attached to the interview granted by Amery to the Bombay Chronicle in which the Secretary of State for India emphasises once more that since the Cripps' offer was made, the door has remained open.

The paper adds that Amery's statement is unequivocal and shows there is genuine purpose to give India her place along with other nations. But the rank hypocrisy underlying all Amery's professions towards India is revealed when he made it clear that unless and until all parties in India come to a

(Continued on next page)

Burmese Force Out To Crush Foe To Preserve Country's Freedom

Rangoon, Mar. 19 (Domei)—"We are out to engage in a final showdown with the enemy who has desecrated sacred Burmese pagodas and buildings and made diabolical attempts to emasculate the Burmese nation," declared Major-General Aung San, Burmese War Minister in a press interview prior to his departure for the foremost front with his troops.

The War Minister added the Burmese forces which will shortly be in action will not only participate in active struggle against the common foe on the Burma front but will also assume full responsibility in training and guiding the Burmese populace in that area into one unified army of freedom fighters as well as equip them for the final battle of Burma.

Queried if these were all the troops to be dispatched to the front, Aung San emphatically replied: "These are only a part of the whole Burmese Army and many thousands more will follow until foreign influence is completely eradicated from our soil and our independence secured." Asserting that today the entire nation is more than ever determined to break the backbone of the Anglo-American war machine so that they will never be able to interfere with the peace of Burma and East Asia, the War Minister stated: "Sixteen million Burmans will not rest until their patriotic and sacred aim is accomplished."

In conclusion the War Minister declared: "My men and I will exert our total efforts in defending our country and independence from all alien aggressors. We will keep the torch of Burmese independence burning with our blood and sweat as well as keep the flag of peace and prosperity fluttering all over East Asia in the years to come."

Grim & Bloody Street Fighting For Mandalay City Reaching Climax

On the Burma Front, Mar. 19 (Domei)—One of the bloodiest and grimmest street fightings in the current war is approaching a climax as Nippon forces continue to engage British-Indian troops in sanguinary battle inside Mandalay, principally around the city's historic palace. In this fighting Nippon forces are receiving considerable aid from the citizens of Burma who are remaining loyal and offering wholehearted co-operation such as securing supplies, foodstuffs and other helpful activities. This courageous and loyal stand of the Burmese people has won the heartfelt gratitude of our garrison forces here.

An outstanding instance of Burmese heroism was the case of a Burmese soldier who, despite a badly injured arm swathed in bandages, stuck fast to his position atop the eastern gate of the palace from where he bagged ten enemy troops.

Thus, with other such stirring incidents too numerous to enumerate, a bitter battle is continuing in the streets of Mandalay with Nippon and Burmese forces fighting in close co-operation against the enemy.

Large-Scale War Raging East Of San Mateo Area

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Both Sides Throw In Big Reinforcements; Outcome Still Hangs In Balance

Philippine Front, March 19 (Domei)—Furious fighting is now raging in the hills east of San Mateo and the salient south-east of Bayan Bayan where the enemy massed large forces in front of the main Nippon positions in the sector east of Manila. With both sides throwing in all their strength into this battle its outcome still hangs in the balance. Nippon storming attacks are being carried out everywhere to the great confusion of the enemy.

In the Montalban salient in particular, explosions were observed at 15 places on the night of March 15. Meanwhile in the Antipolo sector, which forms the left wing of our forces, enemy troops attacked Nippon forces in all sides but our forces held fast to their positions and exacted heavy toll of the enemy.

Meanwhile, enemy troops are attempting infiltration into the interior from a point on Lake Laguna. Embittered fighting is still raging at Los Banos on the southern shore of Lake Laguna and also at Santo Tomas, southwest of that point.

In the northern Luzon sector about 3,000 first line enemy troops launched an attack against Nippon positions in the vicinity of Salacsao and furious fighting has been going on there since March 13.

In the Clark Field sector Nippon troops and marines after partly shortening and readjusting their battleline commenced on March 16 a counter-attack against enemy forces.

Two Warships Sunk In Kyushu Waters; 137 Foe Battleplanes Shot Down

Tokyo, March 20 (Domei)—The Nippon air force in attacks against the enemy task force yesterday sank two warships of unidentified categories, Dai Honyei announced in a communique released at 3.30 p.m. this afternoon. In addition 137 enemy planes were downed by our forces, the communique said.

The communique follows:—

"In interception attacks against the enemy task force yesterday, March 19, our air units scored the following confirmed war results: Sank, two war vessels of unknown categories. In addition one explosion and one pillar of fire were observed shooting up in the battle area as a result of the attack. Shot down, 137 planes (those bagged by our ground and surface forces are included).

"Some of our planes failed to return; however damage sustained on the ground and surface was slight."

Iwoojima Battle Hellish, Says American Marine

Lisbon, March 19 (Domei)—A wounded American Marine who arrived at a San Francisco base hospital along with the first group of Marine casualties to be returned there from the Iwoojima front, today declared. "Iwoojima was a lot of hells rolled into one." according to a San Francisco dispatch.

All of the wounded Marines had a fearful tale to tell of their bloody experience on the island-fortress. Indicating that the Marines had to pay a costly price in the fighting, the Marine said, "We had been told it would not be easy. It was not."

He said that the Nipponese defenders of Iwoojima "never lost an opportunity to let us have it." With the Nipponese strongly entrenched, "it was almost impossible to get at them," he declared.

War Ministry Reveals Changes In Personnel

Tokyo, March 19 (Domei)—In an announcement released today the War Ministry revealed the establishment of the post of Inspector-General of the Anti-Aircraft Artillery Corps and also disclosed personnel changes.

The announcement said Lieut.-General Munetake Yamamuro has been appointed as the first Inspector-General of the Artillery Corps, Lieut.-General Kaoru Takeda as Inspector-General of the Anti-Aircraft Artillery Corps, Lieut.-General Mitsu Kawanami as Inspector-General of the Communications Corps and Lieut.-General Kenzo Kitano as principal of the Military Academy.

Annam Holds Mammoth Independence Rally

Saigon, March 19 (Domei)—With the liberation of the Kingdom of Annam fast becoming a reality, the Annamese yesterday morning held a huge independence rally here attended by more than 50,000 citizens.

During the meeting the assemblage passed a three-point resolution: firstly, to express appreciation to the Nippon military authorities, secondly, extended all-out co-operation and fight side-by-side with Nippon until final victory in the Geater East Asia War is won; and thirdly, concentrate all efforts towards reconstruction of the nation.

Draft Constitution Of 'Arab League' Approved

Lisbon, March 19 (Domei)—The Preparatory Committee of the General Congress of Arab Peoples, attended by the Premiers and Foreign Ministers of all the Arab States except Yemen, today approved the draft of the Constitution of the proposed "Arab League" after a nearly four-hour session, according to a Cairo dispatch.

The Constitution will be presented to the General Congress of Arab Peoples for signature on Thursday. The adoption of the Constitution of the "Arab League" is regarded as a momentous event in the history of the Pan-Arab movement and is expected to usher in a new era of political-economic-cultural collaboration among Arabs as a bloc in Middle East affairs.

Enemy Raider Damaged Over Balik Papan Area

Balikpapan, Mar. 19 (Domei)—Seventeen B-24's and 16 P-38's indiscriminately raided Balikpapan for about an hour and a half from 10.30 a.m. yesterday, March 18.

Nippon air units in the course of interception operations heavily damaged one B-24.

Temperamental Churchill Is Also Vain And Selfish

Lisbon, March 18 (Domei)—Arthur Greenwood, leader of the British Parliamentary Labour Party, and Emanuel Shinwell, outspoken Labour member, today criticized British Prime Minister Winston Churchill in connection with his utterance last week to the Conservative Party Conference in which he announced the need for a new coalition government with himself as the head, according to a London dispatch.

Speaking at Oldham, Lancashire, Greenwood described as "misleading and mischief making" Churchill's statement about the "Socialists having committed themselves to a programme of nationalization to the disgust of some of their leaders."

Greenwood declared it was simply an "attempt to create dissension in the ranks of the Labour Party."

On the other hand, a London dispatch quoted Shinwell as declaring "Why should Labour accept Churchill's office when we have a great opportunity in gaining a clear majority at the next election?"

Charging that Churchill is vain and selfish, Shinwell pointed out that the British Prime Minister is fond of "insulting" the opinions of others but if anyone dares to criticize him, however mildly, "he is temperamental as a prima donna."

"The Prime Minister indulged in a cheap sneer about Left Wing promises," Shinwell said. "But what about his four-year plan and his Utopian housing schemes, which his near relation Duncan Sandys (Minister of Public Works) has no means of carrying into effect?"

U.S. Civilians Warned Of Fresh Cuts In Supplies

Lisbon, March 18 (Domei)—The American people at home are facing the tightest all-around supply situation since the war began and it is going to get worse, an Associated Press message reported from Washington today, quoting a statement made by a high American Government official who wished his name to be kept secret.

The American official's statement was made in connection with the latest warning issued by American authorities to the public to look for an even tighter squeeze of food, shoes, tyres and manpower as the war progresses.

Besides the announcement that American meat consumption will be slashed by 12 per cent., the Office of Press Administration this week-end revealed a 37 per cent. cut in civilian tyres in April. It was stated all tyre ration certificates issued before December 1st, last year, will be cancelled.

War Food Administration officials gloomily predicted that there would be no speedy improvement of the crucial meat shortage, declaring that the end of the European war will not materially affect the meat situation.

The United States Department of Agriculture, meantime, stated today that the total supply of fats and oils in the United States will be substantially reduced this year.

Nippon Army Prepared To Meet All Eventualities

(Continued from previous page)

Nippon field army now garrisoned in Hunan and Kuangsi provinces is sufficient to take care of the Chungking forces, thus leaving the majority of our forces available for intercepting American invaders if they should come. So long as the Nippon field army controls strongly fortified positions in South-Western China, Chungking forces can never hope to achieve their object no matter how much aerial support is given by the American air force to Chungking ground operations. In addition, even American forces will find South China's terrain unfavourable for operation of mechanized units as it abounds in numerous waterways with precipitous mountains in the background, unlike the battlefields of small Pacific islands or the expansive plains on Luzon Island.

With eight years of valuable experience in fighting on the China front behind them the Nippon forces now await, with eagerness, a chance to smash in a single stroke any American invasion of the China coast. Soon after the outbreak of the China Affair, Lin Yu-tang likened the Nippon forces on the China continent to an automobile unit traversing the Gobi Desert which, after its fuel becomes exhausted, finds itself buried under a sand-pillar. The Nippon forces have completely blasted this prophecy of Lin Yu-tang and it will be the American forces who will suffer this fate, not the Nippon forces.

British Anxiety Over Fate Of Indian Empire Growing

(Continued from previous page)

substantial agreement the British cannot grant complete independence to India.

Amery also made it very clear that the British Government do not propose to give up an atom of its power even if an interim Government is established in India with the consent of all parties. He said that the British Viceroy and the British Governors would continue to exercise their special powers.

Meanwhile, faced with the crisis confronting them in India as a result of the country-wide anti-British revolution, the British authorities are trying their best to appease the Indian nationalists some way or other.

According to a report from New Delhi, the Home Minister of the Government of Sind informed the Sind Legislative Assembly yesterday that the provincial government had decided to recommend to the Central Government to release Mr. Jairamdas Doulatram, a former member of the Congress Working Committee, detained since August 1942. The Home Minister said that the provincial government had ordered the release of seven Congressmen. He added that the Government were also favourably considering the cases of the remaining Congressmen.

Big Rush For Enrolment In S.S.A. Service Corps

Syonan, March 20 (Domei)—Reflecting the eargerness of citizens here to render passive defence services during an emergency, officials of the Syonan Sports Association's "Special Forward Service Corps," which rendered meritorious services during recent indiscriminate enemy raids, had a difficult job on Saturday to cope with the large number of applicants who rushed to join the ranks of the Corps.

Although only 25 recruits were required to further supplement the strength of the Corps, approximately 130 candidates, comprising Chinese, Malais, Indians and Eurasians, applied and presented themselves for enrolment at the headquarters of the Corps. Tasked with the difficult job of selecting the best and most-physically fit recruits from among so many applicants, the officials took the best part of five hours to examine all the candidates individually, before enrolling the required number—and disappointing not a few.

The "Special Forward Service Corps," it may be recalled, was recently accorded official recognition for its meritorious services in connection with enemy blind bombing, and the latest recruitment was in line with the policy of the unit to further strengthen its ranks to cope with any emergency.

Lady Mountbatten Appeals For More Doctors & Nurses

Lisbon, March 19 (Domei)—Lady Mountbatten, wife of the Supreme Commander of the anti-Axis South-East Asia Command and Superintendent-in-Chief of the Saint John Ambulance Brigade, today stressed the need for more doctors and nurses in India and South-East Asia in order to cope with the rising toll of anti-Axis casualties, according to a Reuter's dispatch from a British base in Burma.

Lady Mountbatten, who is at present making a tour of the war front, said that base unit hospitals were labouring under the lack of personnel and hoped that more doctors and nurses would be released from Europe in order to care for the wounded and sick in the Indo-Burma-China theatre.

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Enemy Planes Downed Over South China Sea

A Nippon Base in China, March 19 (Domei)—Nippon air reconnaissance units are incessantly patrolling the South China Sea on strict vigilance against enemy attempts to harass our lanes of communication.

These patrol planes operating from a base in the China continent while escorting Nippon convoys have repeatedly hit enemy planes attempting to interfere with Nippon supply routes in various sectors of the South China Sea. Nippon air reconnaissance units have continuously hurled themselves against the enemy and during the three-day period from March 15, Nippon aircraft shot down six B-24's, of which four were probables and one P.51.

Canton Waterway To Be Re-Opened For Traffic

Canton, March 19 (Domei)—The Nippon army and navy authorities in South China yesterday, March 18, jointly announced that the Tung River (East River), one of the two main waterways in the Canton area, will be re-opened to general traffic.

It will be recalled in this connection that following the Nippon reductino of Shaokuan, enemy vital base in the Seventh War Zone, tht Nippon army and navy authorities re-opened to general traffic the Si River (West River), another main waterway in the Canton area.

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